

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 287109
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09
OES-07 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 /058 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:BSKIRKPATRICK:IW
APPROVED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH
EB/TCA/MA:SPILLA
AF/W:RKOTT

-----024530 012252Z /70

O P 012229Z DEC 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, DM

SUBJECT: SHIPPING DIFFICULTIES AT PORT OF COTONOU

1. DEPARTMENT WAS CALLED BY A MR. BENNETT OF THE PETERS-FIELD GROUP, STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT, (203) 329-0408 WHO IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN COTONOU ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 3 VIA AIR AFRIQUE 518. BENNETT STATED THAT A PRIVATE BUSINESS-MAN, A.G.N. HAMZA, WHO REPRESENTS SEVEN SEAS SHIPPING, HAS BEEN EXTORTING FUNDS FROM SEVERAL AMERICAN FIRMS TO CLEAR THEIR GOODS FROM THE DOCKS IN COTONOU. BENNETT STATED THAT HAMZA HAD COLLECTED SOME DOLS 600,000 RECENTLY FROM VARIOUS FIRMS INCLUDING WILLIAMS INTERNATIONAL OF OKLAHOMA AND TIFFANY, WHICH IS OPERATING A PROJECT IN NIGERIA. BENNETT ALLEGED THAT HAMZA HAD COLLECTED CHARGES BUT NOT PAID DUTIES.

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2. BENNETT IS CONCERNED BECAUSE HAMZA IS REPORTED TO HAVE THREATENED SEVERAL BUSINESSMEN. BENNETT HAS CONTACTED GPRB UN DELEGATION WHICH HAS PROMISED TO ASK MFA TO ARRANGE SOMEONE TO MEET HIM WHEN HE ARRIVES. BENNETT CANNOT CONTACT HIS REPRESENTATIVES IN COTONOU BECAUSE THE PHONE LINES ARE OUT. HE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY NOTIFYING EITHER

GABRIEL OR VALENTINE AT 21-24-39 IN PORTO NOVO. BENNET
WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY MEETING HIM AT AIRPORT IN

COORDINATION WITH MFA. HE WOULD LIKE AN OPPORTUNITY TO
TALK WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD ASSIST BENNET AS APPROPRIATE.

VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: BSKIRKPATRICK:IW
Enclosure: n/a
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Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197712103/aaaadjyq.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 69eacefb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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SAS ID: 110384
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHIPPING DIFFICULTIES AT PORT OF COTONOU
TAGS: EWWT, DM
To: COTONOU
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